in February, 2002 for conservation of important historical monuments of rich heritage and development of Government museums;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of assistance sought by the State Government;

(c) the action taken by Government so far; and

(d) the details of monuments selected and the assistance provided and if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) to (d) Government of Maharashtra has not requested the Central Government for conservation of any important historical monument of rich heritage in February, 2002. However, the Central Government has undertaken several projects for conservation of centrally protected monuments in Maharashtra and incurred an expenditure of Rs. 319.87 lakhs during the year 2002-2003.

Government of Maharashtra has requested for financial assistance for development of Government Museums from time to time. These requests have been considered by an expert committtee as per procedure. Based on their recommendations, Shri Bhavani & Library, Aundh P.O. Tal-Khatav, District Satara has been sanctioned an amount of Rs. 3,37,000/- out of which Rs. 2,52,750/- has been released as the first instalment.

Expenditure on Advertisement

3374. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large part of the allocation of funds placed with the Department of Tourism, is used for advertising and promoting India as a premium tourist destination globally;

(b) if so, the details of funds incurred on advertising and promoting India abroad during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for not developing integrated tourist circles in India and how much money Government propose to incur to develop beaches, backwaters, temples and wild life in India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) During the last 3 years the amount allocated under Plan Head

to Indiatourism offices overseas for promotion and publicity in various markets was Rs. 51.00 crores each year. The Govt. earns Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 15,000 crores of foreign exchange from overseas Tourists.

(c) Twenty one travel circuits in the country were identified for development prior to Tenth Five Year Plan but a scheme for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits has been introduced only in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Development projects of the Department include products like beaches, backwaters, temples and wild life in India but no specific allocations are made for each such item.

Closing of excavation work in W.B.

3375. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India has closed excavation work at Rajpat Khalisa Gosanimari Village, district Cooch Behar in West Bengal;

(b) the details of the excavation work and the objectives for the same;

(c) the details of excavated materials and whereabouts of the same; and

(d) whether ASI have any plan to resume excavation there?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The work of excavation at Rajpat Khalisa Gosanimari Village, District Cooch Behar (West Bengal) has been closed in the year 2000.

(b) and (c) The Excavation at Rajpat Khalisa Gosanimari, District Cooch Behar (West Bengal) that was carried out during two field seasons of 1998-99 and 1999-2000 has yielded structures belonging to the time ranging from of c. 11th to the 16th century A.D. in the form of fortification walls, subsidiary brick walls, two circular wells, a guard room, etc., all made of baked bricks. Besides the structures, the site has also yielded antiquities assignable to circa 11th–19th century A.D. Important antiquities are : a few damaged stone sculptures; terracotta figurines; iron spear-heads; arrow-heads; nails; silver coin of the Suitanate period and silver and copper coins of the British period. Some of the excavated material have been displayed at the newly opened archaeological museum at